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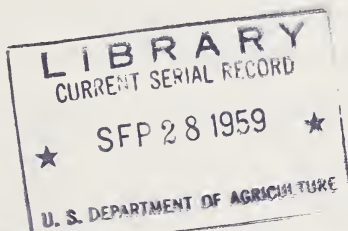
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# FOREIGN AGRICULTURE CIRCULAR

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Foreign Agricultural Service Washington D.C.



LIVESTOCK AND MEATS  
FLM 9-59  
September 20, 1959

## WORLD MEAT TRADE AT

## HIGH LEVEL IN 1958

Exports of meat from the principal producing countries in 1958 exceeded 6 billion pounds. This was 2 percent above a year earlier and 37 percent above the 1951-55 average.

The high level of trade in 1958 was a result of unusually large imports of meat by Canada, the United States, the Philippines, and most Western European countries. Exports from Australia, New Zealand, Argentina, Denmark, Ireland and several Eastern European countries continued large.

World meat trade continues high in 1959, with strong import demand by North America and Western Europe. New Zealand, Australia, and Denmark are maintaining or increasing exports. There has been a sharp reduction in beef production and exports from Argentina.

Imports by the United Kingdom, the world's leading meat importer, during 1958 declined 4 percent to 3.3 billion pounds (carcass weight equivalent) and accounted for 57 percent of the world's imports. Imports by Western Europe, including the United Kingdom, declined 8 percent to 4.0 billion pounds, and included 70 percent of all meat entering world commerce.

The striking feature of the world meat trade in 1958 was a 90-percent increase in North American imports. U.S. imports rose to 1.1 billion pounds in 1958 compared with 543 million in 1957 and 467 million, the average for 1951-55. The United States has become the second largest importer. Entries by Canada, Mexico, Cuba and the Dominican Republic also continued high, totaling 123 million pounds. Canada, Mexico and the Dominican Republic also increased their exports considerably and most of the increase was in beef shipped to the United States.

(This Circular contains more detailed information than the summary of the same title published in the monthly supplement of Foreign Crops and Markets of July 30, 1959.)

## MEAT 1/: Net trade, leading countries, annual 1958

Areas and countries	Net Exports			Net Imports		
	Average	2/	2/	Average		
	1951-55	1957	1958	1951-55	1957	1958
	----- Million pounds -----					
North America:						
Canada.....	53	33	54			
Cuba.....				32	35	33
Mexico.....	66	25	101			
United States.....				327	342	1,016
Total North America				239	320	891
South America:						
Argentina.....	829	1,550	1,596			
Brazil.....	9	72	128			
Paraguay.....	23	40	34			
Uruguay.....	174	222	78			
Venezuela.....				13	19	20
Total South America	1,022	1,850	1,809			
Eastern Europe:						
Poland.....	144	194	--			
Yugoslavia.....	22	97	103			
Total Eastern Europe	113	312	328			
Western Europe:						
Denmark.....	772	916	904			
Ireland.....	158	152	197			
Netherlands.....	235	324	292			
United Kingdom.....				2,743	3,513	3,341
West Germany.....				90	195	142
Total West Europe				1,761	2,753	2,342
U.S.S.R.....				501	113	--
Oceania:						
Australia.....	471	572	578			
New Zealand.....	794	878	931			
Total Oceania.....	1,265	1,450	1,509			



Argentina's exports rose to 1.6 billion pounds in 1958. This was 3 percent above a year earlier and set a new record for recent years. There was a revival of Brazilian exports and that country's 1958 total soared to 128 million pounds. Exchange controls were adjusted to encourage exports and earn needed foreign currencies. Paraguayan exports were large, although below 1957. On the other hand, exports from Uruguay fell to only 78 million pounds and were the lowest in recent years as commercial slaughter dropped to low levels.

Reduced exports of beef from Uruguay and Argentina in 1959 have partly accounted for increased beef prices in the United Kingdom, which is still the largest market for the South American exportable surplus. High prices for beef in Europe and North America have encouraged exports from other supplying countries. Ireland's meat exports rose 30 percent in 1958, and Mexico's more than doubled. The bulk of these exports was beef shipped to the United States from northern Mexican plants.

The U.S.S.R. imported 288 million pounds of meat in 1957 and 483 million in 1956. Much of the imports were pork from Communist China. The U.S.S.R. was also a fairly large exporter of meat in both 1956 and 1957 with most exports going to Eastern Europe. During the past 3 years exports from Eastern Europe have continued to rise; imports have declined and the area has become a more important net exporter. This year's summary includes revised data for U.S.S.R. and Eastern European countries; the data includes trade with all countries, rather than being limited to non-Communist countries as in the past.

Imports of the Philippine Republic and Malaya in 1958 continued to increase. Japan's imports fell sharply as world meat prices rose and Japanese meat production increased.

Australian and New Zealand exports rose moderately in 1958 and were considerably above average. Exports from New Zealand are continuing large this year and shipments from Australia are expected to set a new record.

Meat <sup>1/</sup> International trade, selected countries, average 1951-55, annual 1956-58

Continent and Country	Average		1956		1957 <sup>2/</sup>		1958 <sup>2/</sup>		Percent change			
	1951-55								1951-55		1956-58	
	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports	Imports
North America:												
Canada.....	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Mexico.....	106,356	53,755	86,549	49,436	99,298	66,523	135,316	81,174	27	51	+36	+22
United States.....	67,119	1,476	32,908	1,641	31,918	7,295	107,846	7,010	+61	+475	+238	-4
Paraguay.....	139,979	466,696	192,900	362,618	201,184	543,128	100,675	1,116,699	-28	+439	+115	+406
Cuba.....	41	32,472	--	38,618	--	35,094	--	33,165	--	+2	--	+5
Honduras.....	--	372	--	1,620	--	189	--	144	--	-61	--	-22
Dominican Republic.....	3,479	785	703	1,798	1,122	1,293	4,432	1,329	+27	+69	+295	+3
Total North America.....	316,974	555,556	304,060	455,925	333,522	653,518	348,269	1,239,521	+10	+123	+4	+90
South America:												
Argentina.....	829,306	--	1,548,941	--	1,549,834	--	1,595,560	--	+92	--	+3	--
Brazil.....	17,015	8,200	32,814	137	71,896	73	128,015	18	+652	-100	+78	-75
Chile.....	1,706	5,463	1,975	12,950	5,335	5,977	5,295	959	+210	-82	-1	-84
Paraguay.....	22,599	--	33,600	--	39,760	--	34,179	--	+52	--	-14	--
Peru.....	--	15,286	--	9,797	--	14,513	--	11,534	--	-25	--	-21
Uruguay.....	174,155	--	216,399	--	221,881	--	78,492	--	-55	--	-65	--
Venezuela.....	--	13,497	--	5,282	--	18,537	--	20,210	--	+50	--	+9
Total South America.....	1,044,761	42,446	1,833,729	28,166	1,888,706	39,100	1,841,541	32,721	+76	-23	-2	-16
Europe:												
Austria.....	3,014	6,899	605	6,858	1,469	7,312	483	6,069	-84	-12	-33	-17
Belgium-Luxembourg.....	24,528	41,663	33,745	55,385	18,324	59,639	38,261	57,658	+56	+38	+102	-3
Denmark.....	772,194	645	766,440	423	916,308	714	903,968	--	+17	--	-1	--
Finland.....	3,947	2,056	137	3,457	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
France.....	126,665	73,410	125,079	73,667	111,019	112,929	106,459	106,670	-16	+45	-4	-6
Germany, West.....	38,968	129,343	30,364	327,108	37,073	232,551	51,224	192,773	+31	+49	+38	-17
Greece.....	--	11,019	--	33,198	--	29,939	--	45,804	--	+316	--	+38
Iceland.....	805	116	5,106	--	5,170	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Ireland.....	157,939	--	117,901	--	151,609	--	197,338	--	+25	--	+30	--
Italy.....	13,253	83,534	15,085	150,909	23,013	246,765	13,365	150,827	+1	+81	-42	-39
Netherlands.....	270,871	36,319	340,988	67,357	369,105	45,545	335,699	43,604	+20	+20	-9	-4
Norway.....	4,231	1,046	7,260	927	3,894	2,102	2,647	16,941	-37	+1,520	-32	+706
Portugal.....	5,599	1,651	3,369	--	3,483	5,329	3,308	1,500	-41	-9	-5	-72
Spain.....	395	12,440	170	42,597	138	73,670	--	--	--	--	--	--
Sweden.....	11,191	34,386	15,654	30,489	28,452	65,734	63,626	59,219	+469	+72	+124	-10
Switzerland.....	677	18,389	313	30,172	296	26,743	200	36,023	-60	+96	-32	+35
United Kingdom.....	--	2,742,736	--	3,318,899	--	3,513,449	--	3,341,393	--	+22	--	-4
Total West Europe.....	1,434,298	3,195,652	1,462,196	4,141,446	1,669,353	4,422,431	1,716,578	4,058,481	+20	+27	+3	-8

Bulgaria 3/	4/ 98,330	151	44,189	35,569	3,121	22,046	7,169	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Czechoslovakia 3/	4/ 2,392	65,467	2,862	35,272	3,121	22,046	7,169	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Germany, East 3/	4/ 59,160	59,160	53,350	9,700	41,421	28,078	7,169	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Hungary 3/	4/ 38,761	8,260	187,153	9,700	41,421	28,078	7,169	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Poland 3/	4/ 145,230	888	187,153	9,700	41,421	28,078	7,169	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Rumania 3/	4/ 396	320	72,450	24,194	97,299	278	110,242	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Yugoslavia 3/	4/ 21,920	--	72,450	24,194	97,299	278	110,242	403	+7,169	+14	+2,479
Total East Europe	24,702	134,246	365,516	132,735	385,549	73,330	402,831	63	-44	44	+2
Total Europe	1,681,327	3,329,898	1,827,712	4,274,181	2,054,902	4,495,761	2,119,409	4,133,578	26	24	+3
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) 3/	24,874	525,734	69,236	483,046	175,110	287,721	--	--	--	--	--
Africa:											
Madagascar	12,259	--	7,598	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--
Rhodesia and Nyasaland	16,380	6,610	9,390	17,934	9,495	14,232	--	--	--	--	--
Union of South Africa	22,985	11,532	27,754	8,932	31,086	7,905	31,364	15,083	36	31	+1
Total Africa	51,624	18,142	44,742	26,866	48,179	22,137	48,962	30,083	-5	46	+2
Asia:											
Israel	--	20,799	--	36,291	--	23,016	--	--	--	--	--
Japan	347	1,654	952	5,812	519	50,408	695	11,103	400	571	+34
Malaya	530	18,223	681	18,020	622	18,891	643	18,615	21	2	+3
Philippines	--	21,889	--	46,016	--	45,302	--	80,917	--	270	+79
Total Asia	877	62,565	1,633	106,139	1,141	137,617	1,338	130,635	53	409	+17
Oceania:											
Australia 5/	471,166	--	619,536	--	572,323	--	578,284	--	23	--	+1
New Zealand	793,907	--	938,320	--	877,820	--	931,030	--	37	--	+6
Total Oceania	1,265,073	--	1,557,856	--	1,450,143	--	1,509,314	--	19	--	+4
Total World	4,385,530	4,534,341	5,638,968	5,374,323	5,951,703	5,635,854	6,043,833	5,791,538	37	28	+1

1/ All meats converted to carcass weight equivalent--includes beef and veal, pork, mutton and lamb, goat and horse meat; excludes live animals, edible variety meat, lard, rabbit and poultry meat. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Includes trade with non-free world. Probably includes variety meats, game, and poultry.  
4/ Less than 5 years. 5/ Year ending June 30.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, other foreign source material, reports of United States Agricultural Attaches and other representatives abroad, results of official research and related information.

September 20, 1959.

